

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Applicants have amended the claims and added new claims 29-38 to more clearly recite that which they consider to be their invention. It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments are supported by the originally filed specification. Entry of the claim amendments and favorable reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicated that references listed on the IDS filed on September 26, 2003 were not considered because copies thereof were not supplied. Applicants hereby submit copies of these references (Items BI, CA-CZ, and DA, DB). Indication of their consideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the claims for lack enablement with regard to the attachment to a solid support of a labeled derivatizing agent other than via biotin has been rendered moot by the above claim amendments.

Similarly, applicants respectfully submit that the indefiniteness rejections of the claims, discussed in paragraphs #7-14 and 16 of the Office Action have also been rendered moot by the above claim amendments.

Applicants respectfully submit that in the context of the presently amended claims, the meaning of the phrase "solid support" is clear to one of ordinary skills in the art. Although this recitation encompasses many possible materials, an ordinarily skilled artisan would understand and be able to determine easily which of these possibilities is suitable for the claimed method, e.g. for providing a solid surface to be coated with avidin, or with antibodies, or with a biotin labeled Ehrlich's reagent.

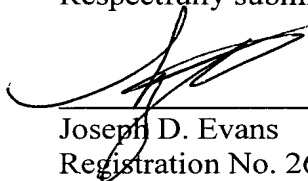
In summary, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit an early indication from the Examiner to that effect.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully submit that this response is timely by virtue of the concurrently submitted Petition for Extension of Time and the requisite fees. If, however, additional fees are needed, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 100933.53278D1).

Respectfully submitted,

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